

[7th March,2001]

RAJYASABHA

**Recommendation of Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations
Committee**

1166. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended for formulation and implementation of a scheme for leasing of natural resources licenses to the SCs / STs in the year 1992;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon indicating salient features of any such scheme adopted / implemented and results achieved in this regard; and

(c) the reasons if the said recommendation is not implemented with satisfactory results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir. As informed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Committee, *inter alia*, recommended introduction of a new policy to lease/licence natural resources like stone quarries, clay quarries and animal carcasses, etc. which are within the State control to actual workers and their co-operatives/associations and the provision of economic support for them.

(b) and (c) State and Union Territory Governments have been requested by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to consider introducing the policy in their respective States and Union Territories.

So far as Coal and Lignite resources are concerned, as per the provisions of Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973, coal mining is exclusively reserved for the public sector. Captive mining is permissible in respect of public and private companies engaged in production of Iron and Steel, Power and other end uses to be notified by Government from time to time.